

OCT 21 2005

Application No.: 10/609,310

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Docket No.: 146712016200

Client Ref. No.: STL 3180

REMARKS

In response to the election requirement, applicant hereby elects Species A1 (figures 2A-2B), without traverse. The claims readable on this species are: claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-20, 20 and 22.

Please note that the preliminary amendment filed concurrently with this election of species fixes an obvious error in the numbering of the claims. The originally filed claims included two claims both numbered claim 20. Both claims numbered "claim 20" have been cancelled and renumbered as new claims 23 and 24. Thus, the elected species is readable on claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-19, and 22-24.

Applicant's election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to not more than two species in addition to the elected species, provided that all claims to each additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.146. As the Office Action of September 22, 2005 points out, claims 1, 13, 14, and 15 are generic.

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CONCLUSION

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712016200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: October 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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